

1       **SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR ACCESSING READERS AND OTHER I/O**  
2                                   **DEVICES BY PROGRAMS**

3                                   A B S T R A C T

4       The present invention allows program specific configuration  
5       of several physical or logical readers, or other I/O  
6       devices, by using a configuration tool and a reader access  
7       layer. In an example embodiment, a configuration tool  
8       allows, a specifying access rights and priority rights for  
9       each single reader in conjunction with each single program.  
10      A reader access layer communicates with each program  
11      directly, calls up the reader access list for the requesting  
12      program, checks the access rights and the priority order for  
13      the available readers and returns a response to the  
14      requesting program containing information for accessing the  
15      active reader with the highest available priority. It  
16      secures previously defined access rights and access  
17      priorities between readers and programs defined in the  
18      reader access list remain unchanged independently when new  
19      readers are added.